

behavior. The anger would be perfectly justified.

Mexican officials are not attacking the United States, but U.S. Border Patrol agents are attacking the Colonia Libertad neighborhood of Tijuana. Mexicans have every right to be as angry as we would be if the roles were reversed.

In response to smugglers who are pelting Border Patrol agents in order to create a diversion, the Americans are stepping up their efforts. "Agents have used pepper spray in the past, but usually aimed directly at the smugglers," the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. "The new tactics, which saturate large areas, have forced dozens of temporary evacuations and sent some residents to hospitals."

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

We understand that the issue of illegal immigration is extremely contentious, but even those advocating tougher U.S. enforcement measures should agree that there need to be limits to the policy. It's hard to make the argument that Mexicans are trampling our sovereignty while we so eagerly trample theirs.

IN HONOR OF MARY MILLS RITCHIE

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we wrap up this year in Congress, I want to honor Mary Mills Ritchie, who left my staff earlier this year to return to Mississippi. She was a dedicated member of my staff who honorably served my office and the people of Mississippi.

Mary Mills came to my office as our staff assistant in 2003, after graduating from the University of Mississippi earlier that year, and Jackson Preparatory School in 1999. She demonstrated her abilities to understand and affect public policy and with her dedicated work ethic, her role grew to Legislative Assistant for health care policy.

She managed this legislative portfolio at a critical time, as we worked with seniors and communities to implement the Medicare Reform Act of 2003 that provides prescription drug benefits to needy Americans. She served as my liaison to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and assisted pharmacists, hospitals, and other health care providers in Mississippi move through the Washington bureaucratic.

Following Hurricane Katrina, she played a critical role as we inserted language in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that provided funds for 8½ months of Mississippi's state

Medicaid budget: \$850 million in budget relief at a time when Mississippi was straining under the pressures of disaster recovery.

While working in Washington, she met a young man from Texas named Spencer Ritchie and they married in March of 2005. But rather than carrying her away to the Lone Star State, she converted him into a Mississippian. He is now in law school at the University of Mississippi, where she works in Oxford.

Mary Mills' hard work and success is a tribute to her parents, Sam and Leila Lane. I know they and her brothers, Samuel and Ben, are very proud of her.

Madam Speaker, Mary Mills Ritchie left a formative mark on my health care agenda and on our office. We will not forget her good nature or her eagerness to learn and work. She possesses a rare grace and presence. This unique spirit carries her compassion and commitment to help, teach and serve others. She continues to bless the lives of all who know her. I thank her for her service to this office and to Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING MONTY SLOUGH AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces, and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

After checking records at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Monty identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Slough began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Slough has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Monty said, "This isn't going to bring them back, but they sure as hell are not going to be forgotten."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, In 2002, we enacted the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act in an attempt to stabilize the economy following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to protect against economic catastrophe should another attack occur. This important program is set to expire at the end of the year, and it is essential that we reauthorize TRIA.

The legislation before us is not the strong bill we passed in September or the compromise we passed last week, and it is not a perfect bill. It extends TRIA by only 7 years and does not include the strong new provisions that were included in the other bills we passed. However, this legislation does do one vital thing: it works to ensure the stability of our economy should another national crisis occur. For this very important reason, I support this legislation today but hope we can pass a stronger bill in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANGELO WEDO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Angelo Wedo, a former shoemaker's helper and railroad worker, who served ten years as mayor of Brook Park, Ohio.

Born in Windber, PA, Angelo was the son of Italian immigrants. After graduating with a degree in accounting from Lehigh University, Angelo moved to the Cleveland area, where he worked as an accountant for Pre-form Marine Products before and after his stint as mayor.

In 1961, Angelo was elected Brook Park city treasurer. He served as Ward 4 councilman from 1966 to 1970 and as council president for two years before becoming mayor.

Angelo served as mayor from 1972 to 1981 and is credited for playing an integral role in establishing the city's first recreation center. In appreciation of his commitment to recreation facilities, a city park was named in his honor.

Angelo was the devoted husband of Sondra and the loving father of Greg, Michelle, Tony, Valerie, and Vicki. He was the cherished grandfather of six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Angelo Wedo, an enthusiastic member of the Brook Park community and dedicated servant of local government. May his commitment to Brook Park serve as an example to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO AARON DAVID
HUDSPETH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron David Hudspeth a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron David Hudspeth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED ABOUT
TAPE DESTRUCTION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, many Americans are rightly concerned about reports that the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed tapes documenting the interrogation of two suspected Al Qaeda terrorists.

This morning's newspapers report that the decision to destroy the tapes may have come after the matter had been discussed with legal advisers at the highest level in the Bush administration.

I do not know how accurate those reports may be. But I agree with an editorial in yesterday's Gazette, the daily newspaper of Colorado Springs, that Congress should investigate this matter.

In the words of the Gazette:

The House and Senate intelligence committees and other congressional committees have vowed to undertake investigations into the circumstances under which those tapes were destroyed. This is an appropriate use of the legislative branch's power to oversee the activities of the executive branch, especially when allegations of illegal activity are involved.

On Friday, however, the Justice Department asked the relevant congressional committees to postpone their investigations while preliminary investigations by the Justice Department and the CIA itself are under way. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey also announced that the Justice Department would not comply with congressional requests for information at this time.

This stonewalling is inappropriate and only feeds suspicion. Congress is an equal branch of government under the Constitution. As such, it has full authority to conduct investigations into the activities of executive branch employees. * * *

In a democratic system the government is supposed to serve the interests of the people and eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But the people cannot maintain vigilance over "their" government if the government

is allowed to keep its arguably questionable activities secret.

I completely agree with that succinct summary of the situation, and urge the Intelligence Committees to proceed with their inquiries.

For the information of all our colleagues, I am attaching the complete text of the Gazette's editorial:

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Dec. 18, 2007]

OPEN GOVERNMENT—CONGRESS MUST
INVESTIGATE TAPES' DESTRUCTION

Although the circumstances are suspicious surrounding a decision by the CIA to destroy videotapes of the interrogations of two al-Qaida suspects by CIA interrogators, it is virtually impossible to know whether those tapes contain evidence of "enhanced interrogation" techniques that rise to the level of torture. What is certain is that all the investigations into how and why those tapes were destroyed, and who ordered their destruction, should proceed with all deliberate speed.

Last week CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden gave secret testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee regarding the hundreds of hours of videotaped interrogation of two men identified as members of al-Qaida, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. He acknowledged that the tapes had been destroyed sometime around 2005.

The House and Senate intelligence committees and other congressional committees have vowed to undertake investigations into the circumstances under which those tapes were destroyed. This is an appropriate use of the legislative branch's power to oversee the activities of the executive branch, especially when allegations of illegal activity are involved.

On Friday, however, the Justice Department asked the relevant congressional committees to postpone their investigations while preliminary investigations by the Justice Department and the CIA itself are under way. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey also announced that the Justice Department would not comply with congressional requests for information at this time.

This stonewalling is inappropriate and only feeds suspicion. Congress is an equal branch of government under the Constitution. As such, it has full authority to conduct investigations into the activities of executive branch employees.

At the same time, the Justice Department is urging a federal judge not to hold a hearing into the destruction of the tapes. U.S. District Judge Henry Kennedy is presiding over a case involving 12 Yemeni prisoners being held at the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay on Cuba. Defense lawyers have urged such a hearing, noting that in 2005 Kennedy as the presiding judge in Zubaydah's and al-Nashiri's cases ordered that all evidence involving that case be preserved, and want to determine whether the destruction of the Zubaydah and al-Nashiri interrogation tapes violated that order.

It is possible for reasonable people to differ as to whether torture is ever justified. We agree with Sen. John McCain, who knows something about torture from his experience as a Vietnam prisoner of war, that the United States should maintain the moral high ground by abjuring torture. Most experienced interrogators also note that torture is not a reliable way to acquire accurate information.

A broad, informed debate on appropriate interrogation techniques is appropriate given widespread suspicion that the U.S. has used techniques that are tantamount to torture. The more information available, the

more informed any such discussion will be. That's why it is deplorable that the Justice Department wants to quash congressional and judicial inquiries into the destruction of videotapes that may—or may not—have documented the use of inappropriate techniques by government operatives.

In a democratic system the government is supposed to serve the interests of the people and eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But the people cannot maintain vigilance over "their" government if the government is allowed to keep its arguably questionable activities secret.

CONGRATULATING STRATON
KARATASSOS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, the athletic tradition at Mississippi State University has celebrated the lives and accomplishments of many student and staff leaders over the years. Recently another has been added to this list when Straton Karatassos was inducted into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

Straton has a lifetime of experiences and stories as a manager and trainer of athletic teams. While working with the Georgia Southern baseball team in 1973, he made his first visit to Mississippi State University for a game, and later that year returned as a graduate student. Now, three decades later, Straton has become inseparable from the MSU athletic family. He was named State's head trainer in 1981, later served as assistant athletic director for sports medicine, and now works as assistant athletic director for athletic development within the Bulldog Club.

While he is a native of Savannah, GA, we like to claim him as a true son of Starkville. He and his wife, Harriet, of Batesville, MS, are central to the Bulldog community, and he is as much part of the teams at Mississippi State as are the players.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in congratulating Straton Karatassos for a lifetime of service to sport and saluting him in his induction into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MEM-
BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the men and women who put on the uniform of the National Guard have acted with extreme bravery and integrity. Through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, these soldiers have fought valiantly, without question and without reservations, and they embody the entire spirit of service.

In New Mexico, the National Guard has played an historic role in defending our Nation. Members of the New Mexico National Guard served as "Rough Riders" on San Juan Hill